



Penyrheol Newsletter

Christmas 2023 / Autumn Term

*Christmas Fun
Virtual Reality
PTA News*

and lots more....





A Message from the Headteacher

Dear Pupils and Parents/Carers,

We find ourselves at the end of what has been a busy, varied but hugely rewarding Autumn Term. I hope that reading this newsletter will be a great reminder of how the efforts and

achievements of our pupils has shone through in the last few months.

It is easy to forget but this is only the second academic year where things are what we may consider back to 'normal'. For only the second time in four years we have enjoyed Year 6 Open Evening, the School Show, the PTA Christmas Fayre, the Carol Concert and Parents Evenings (now called Progress Evenings) face to face. Welcoming the community back into school and undertaking events out in the community have made this term a real joy. Penyrheol belongs to the community it serves and we are very proud to serve our community.

I have really enjoyed writing fortnightly letter home to parents/carers this term. I am hopeful that the community continues to be fully informed about what is happening at Penyrheol. This Christmas Newsletter is the perfect companion to those letters and I hope parents/carers enjoy reading the articles and seeing the photos of some of the events that have taken place at Penyrheol. I trust that parents/carers will read the newsletter and see the excellent opportunities that pupils get at Penyrheol.

I am very proud of all the many and varied things that our pupils have achieved this term. More than that though, I am proud of the effort and the commitment that the overwhelming majority of our pupils show each day at school. So many of our pupils embody our core values of Respect, Aspire, Thrive and Belong on a daily basis.

I would like to thank all parents/carers for their ongoing support of the school.

I wish the whole school community a happy and peaceful Christmas. The Spring term begins on Monday 8th January.

Nadolig llawen a blwyddyn newydd ddai gyfeillion Ysgol Gyfun Penyrheol.

Yours faithfully



D Benney

Headteacher/Pennaeth

Term Dates

Term	Term Begins		Mid-Term Holiday Begins	Mid-Term Holiday Ends		Term Ends	Total Days
Autumn 2023	Friday 1 September	Friday 27 October	Monday 30 October	Friday 3 November	Monday 6 November	Friday 22 December	76
Spring 2024	Monday 8 January	Friday 9 February	Monday 12 February	Friday 16 February	Monday 19 February	Friday 22 March	50
Summer 2024	Monday 8 April	Friday 24 May	Monday 27 May	Friday 31 May	Monday 3 June	Monday 19 July	69
Total							195

Bank holidays

Good Friday - 29th March 2024
Easter Monday - 1st April 2024
May Day - 6th May 2023
Spring Bank Holiday - 27th May 2024

Inset Days

Friday 1st September 2023
Monday 4th September 2023
Friday 27th October 2023
Friday 22nd December 2023

Attendance

In October the following pupils
achieved 100% attendance -

Year	Pupil
Year 7	Rein Miguel
Year 8	Ethan Marles
Year 9	Maya Hirst
Year 10	Evie Slater
Year 11	Emily James

In November the following pupils
achieved 100% attendance -

Year	Pupil
Year 7	Felix Davies
Year 8	Ava Pennock
Year 9	Lowri Gambell
Year 10	Billy Brown
Year 11	Katie Robinson

All pupils received a £10 gift voucher

Awards Night



On Thursday 23rd November at 7pm, we were so very proud and excited to welcome our awards winners - the class of 2023 - back into the school theatre for an extra special evening and the celebration of success.

Well done Class of 2023 and good luck in the future!

Hot Chocolate Fridays

This year Mr Benney has introduced “Hot Chocolate Fridays”. Every fortnight one pupil from each year group is chosen to have a hot chocolate with Mr Benney as a reward for positive behaviour based on our four core values - **Respect, Aspire, Thrive, Belong**.





Pupils recognised for Autumn T

	Year 7	Year 8
HEAD OF YEAR	Alex Griffiths - Attainment Libby Beynon - Effort	Aimme Besley - Attainment Damilola Oyeyemi - Effort
ART	Elsie Ferris - Attainment Mayer Suter - Effort	Cristina Neacsu - Attainment Craig Howe - Effort
BUSINESS STUDIES	<i>Not applicable at KS3</i>	<i>Not applicable at KS3</i>
COMPUTER SCIENCE	<i>Not applicable at KS3</i>	<i>Not applicable at KS3</i>
CONSTRUCTION	<i>Not applicable at KS3</i>	<i>Not applicable at KS3</i>
DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY	<i>Not applicable at KS3</i>	<i>Not applicable at KS3</i>
DRAMA	Constance Strawbridge - Attainment Ryder Smith - Effort	Ryan Messer - Attainment Sofia Evans - Effort
ENGLISH	Isla Howells - Attainment Morgan North - Effort	Cristina Neacsu - Attainment Ethan Oliver - Effort
FOOD & NUTRITION	Amelia Hands - Attainment Darcy Matthews - Effort	Craig Howe - Attainment Lanaya Jones - Effort
GEOGRAPHY	Freya Nisbet - Attainment Brooke Morris - Effort	Craig Howe - Attainment Cristina Neascu - Effort
HISTORY	Jacob Jeffery - Attainment Willow Evans - Effort	Cristina Neascu - Attainment Kaiden Jones - Effort
ICT	Benjamin Griffiths - Attainment Cerys Kennett - Effort	Sofia Evans - Attainment Lanaya Jones - Effort

Attainment and Effort

Term 2023

Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Josh Paynter	Summer Harries - Attainment Keaton Taylor - Effort	Morgan Parry - Attainment Cerrys Morgan - Effort
Scarlett Bamford - Attainment Georgia Thorne - Effort	Sophie Brewer - Attainment Thoryn Morris - Effort	Hattie Hughes - Attainment Noah Cartmill-Pearce - Effort
<i>Not applicable at KS3</i>	Lillie Ahern - Attainment William Rees - Effort	Katelyn Coleman - Attainment Harry Armor - Effort
<i>Not applicable at KS3</i>	Josef Nisbet - Attainment Thomas Bamford - Effort	Nicole Farcas - Attainment Grace Kirmse - Effort
<i>Not applicable at KS3</i>	Harrison Stock - Attainment William Rees - Effort	William Courtney - Attainment Ty Whyatt - Effort
<i>Not applicable at KS3</i>		Darasimi Fashina - Attainment Jamie Morris - Effort
	Faye Peijic - Attainment Lillie Ahern - Effort	Max Morgan - Attainment Hope Benjafield-O'Sullivan - Effort
Georgia Thorne - Attainment Ava Badger - Effort	Kamsi Ebisi - Attainment Mya Garforth - Effort	Abbie Williams - Attainment Dylan Gay - Effort
Christopher Bell - Attainment Hallie Brown - Effort	Morgan Jenkins - Attainment Ebony Byrne - Effort	Chloe Holloway - Attainment Jack Griffiths - Effort
Declan Pearson - Attainment Polly Mock Davies - Effort	Charlotte Morris	Evan Smith
Josh Paynter - Attainment Evie-Jo Cole - Effort	Martha Shepherd - Attainment Ruby Jones-Tworkowsky - Effort	Katelyn Coleman - Attainment Luca Deias - Effort
Henry Davies - Attainment Lucia Davies - Effort	<i>Not applicable at KS4</i>	<i>Not applicable at KS4</i>

INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES	Willow Tyler - Attainment Elliot Moses - Effort	Anya Patrick - Attainment Jack Slater - Effort	J
MATHS	Alex Griffiths - Attainment Maisy Rees - Effort	Cristina Neascu - Attainment Tommy Schmeysz - Effort	
MEDIA STUDIES	<i>Not applicable at KS3</i>	<i>Not applicable at KS3</i>	
MUSIC	Sofia Lorey - Attainment Olivia Lewis - Effort	Serena Hooson Jones - Attainment Bradley Price - Effort	RH
P.E BOYS	Cody Kowalik - Attainment Alex Griffiths - Effort	Kayden Scott - Attainment Oliver Phillips - Effort	E
P.E. GIRLS	Annabel Edwards - Attainment Libby Beynon - Effort	Aimee Besley - Attainment Caitlin Thomas - Effort	So
PHOTOGRAPHY	<i>Not applicable at KS3</i>	<i>Not applicable at KS3</i>	
PRODUCT DESIGN	Anthony Ash-Robinson - Attainment Ioan Williams - Effort	Joseph Lewis - Attainment Dylan Tudor - Effort	Pol
RVE	Sophie Mills - Attainment Awstin Guy - Effort	Ava Pennock - Attainment Damilola Oyeyemi - Effort	An
SCIENCE	Rafael Vesey Blanco - Attainment Brooke Morris - Effort	Oscar Moore - Attainment Sofia Evans - Effort	L
TEXTILES	Tomos Prior - Attainment Freya Nisbet - Effort	Christina Neacsu - Attainment Aimee Besley - Effort	L
WBQ	<i>Not applicable at KS3</i>	<i>Not applicable at KS3</i>	
WELSH/ CYMRAEG	Amelia Hands - Attainment Samuel Jones - Effort	Charles Goudge - Attainment Kian James - Effort	A

Josh Paynter - Attainment Georgia Thorne - Effort	Josef Nisbet - Attainment Serafina Haile - Effort	Cerrys Morgan
Chris Bell - Attainment Lowri Gambell - Effort	Serafina Haile - Attainment Tallula Harkness - Effort	Luke Hutchings - Attainment Gethin Tudor - Effort
<i>Not applicable at KS3</i>		Ellie Tench - Attainment Seb Hearne - Effort
Rhys Wonnacott - Attainment Kieran Broome - Effort	Joseph Salter - Attainment Jimmy Elliott - Effort	Noah Cartmill Pearce - Attainment Ffion Evans - Effort
Ben Courtney - Attainment Morgan Smith - Effort	Alex Pike - Attainment Rhys Batten - Effort	Jayden Thomas - Attainment Luca Deias - Effort
Phoebe Edwards - Attainment Lowri Gambell - Effort	Phoebe Joseph - Attainment Hollie Bamford - Effort	Maddison Jones - Attainment Lowri Dymond - Effort
<i>Not applicable at KS3</i>	Ffion Weed - Attainment Emily Mathews - Effort	Sophie Brewer - Attainment Thoryn Morris - Effort
Ly Mock-Davies - Attainment Declan Pearson - Effort	Joshua Jones - Attainment Michael Agboola - Effort	Ieuan Lewis - Attainment Harry Armour - Effort
Isabel Williams - Attainment Rhys Wannacott - Effort		Kleo Bowen - Attainment Seb Hearne - Effort
Lowri Gambell - Attainment Diesel Morgan - Effort	Joseph Salter - Attainment Jaydon Taylor - Effort	Abbie Williams - Attainment Leon Arkwright - Effort
Lowri Gambell - Attainment Georgia Thorne - Effort		
<i>Not applicable at KS3</i>	Lacie Howells - Attainment Jimmy Elliot - Effort	Tyler Pritchard - Attainment Ethan Butler - Effort
Andrew Nolan - Attainment Rita Chimbi - Effort	Joanie Peacey - Attainment Finley Stock - Effort	Hannah Beech - Attainment Nicoel Farcas - Effort

H A R V E S T



On October 3rd, Abi Reader, NFU Cymru Deputy President, held an assembly on Harvest. Abi is a third generation mixed farmer, farming in partnership with her parents and uncle in Wenvoe just outside Cardiff.

Goldsland Farm is home to 200 milking cows, 150 sheep, 90 beef cattle and 120 acres of arable. Abi is a co-founder of Cows on Tour, an Open Farm Sunday host and a former NFU Cymru Wales Woman Farmer of the Year.

The talk was very interesting and pupils were very engaged in what Abi had to tell them.



Abi Reader, Mr Evans, and our Head/
Deputy Head Prefects



During the summer holidays, five of our Year 11 pupils applied for and were successful in gaining a place on a fully-funded STEM project. Our pupils attended a 1-week in-person sustainability summer camp based at Monmouth Boys School.



Hannah Beech and Grace Kirmse both found the experience very worthwhile and thoroughly enjoyed.



The experience was nothing short of remarkable, and I thoroughly enjoyed every moment of it. Engaging in hands-on projects, collaborating with peers, and delving into the world of science and technology was immensely enjoyable. The scholarship has been a significant learning experience for me, expanding my horizons and igniting a passion for STEM that I intend to pursue further.
Hannah Beech

This scholarship served as a transformative learning experience, broadening my perspectives and igniting a profound passion for STEM field. I am now wholeheartedly committed to pursuing a future in the realms of science and technology.
Grace Kirmse



Library News

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a library. It shows several rows of light-colored wooden bookshelves. The shelves are filled with books, mostly with colorful spines. Some books are standing upright, while others are lying flat. The lighting is bright, coming from fluorescent lights on the ceiling. The perspective is from a low angle, looking down the aisles of the library.

For the Love of Books

In September we started our first ever Book Club, where pupils can read as many books as they like from the library each half term. Pupils can then collect a Book Review from our Librarian to complete.

During the last week of term we then meet at lunch time to discuss what we've read in hope of giving others inspiration to try something new. All Book Reviews can be found in the library for all pupils to read.

*"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more
Read With My Eyes Shut!"*

New

Board Games Club



This term Mrs Lafferty has introduced a lunch time Board Games Club, which takes place in the library on a (week 2) Friday. It has been a huge success and it's lovely to see pupils making new friends.



Book Fayre

For a week in October we had three large containers of books sent to us from Scholastic for pupils to buy.

It was lovely to see so many pupils enthusiastic about the books. Pupils spent a total of £180, which sadly wasn't enough for us to receive free resources, but was a great amount nevertheless!



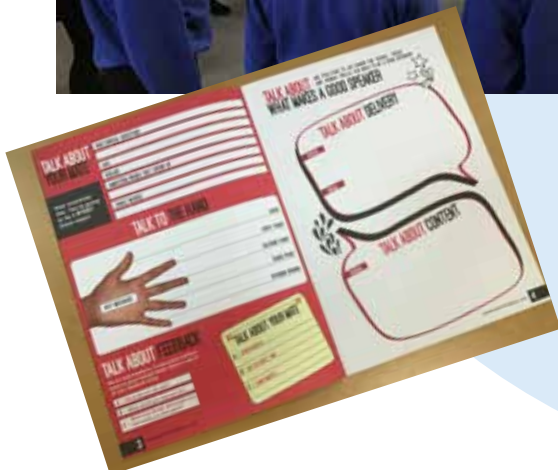
that you learn, the more places you'll go." — Dr. Seuss, I Can

TALK THE

On Friday 10th November a group of Year 9 pupils were selected to participate in "Talk the Talk" - an educational charity that works with young people to become confident communicators for life.

The workshop ran all day in our Library, and whilst some pupils were nervous to start, by the end of the day their confidence had grown!

The trainer was brilliant with the pupils, and had them playing lots of games in order to build up oracy skills and confidence.



"An absolute pleasure to work with everyone at Penyrheol Comprehensive. I had a warm welcome and everything was set up as required. I thoroughly enjoyed working with the student throughout the day and it was lovely to see such confidence and progression from some of the more reserved students."

Everyone was fully engaged and supportive of each other throughout the day. Everyone felt able to talk at each opportunity. The games were enjoyed and everyone's energy and commitment.

I was so impressed by everyone throughout the day, either with their confidence or by stepping out of their comfort zone to help gain more confidence. I would happily make everyone Oracy Champ if I could! Well done to all the students and thank you for a great day." - Frankie, the Trainer

TALK



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Reading Buddies



A new reading scheme has been set up this year by Mrs Marks, where Year 7 pupils have been paired with Year 11 pupils to help aid their reading and improve their skills. Pupils meet every Tuesday and Thursday in the library during registration. Both younger and older pupils have felt this to be very beneficial.....

Really beneficial for us and the Year 7s. It's helping Year 7s improve their learning but also great for us to interact with younger years and share expertise.
Year 11

When I see my Year 7 pupil around school he always says hello!
Year 11

It's been great to see my buddy improve his confidence in reading. We've already finished one book together.
Year 11

It has been great to see the quick progress of my child and I can't wait to see what she goes on to do.
Year 11



I would like to share the exciting news of the Florida fundraisers with everyone. Firstly, I would like to thank the staff and parents for organising the events that have taken place. The Gloucester shopping trip was very successful and a lot of fun. This was followed by a hugely successful Virtual Horse Racing evening. A huge thank you to David Wilcox (Chilli), his family and Mark Stock for all the efforts arranging and running the event, which was a fantastic success and over £900 was raised. Thank you, Mr Davies.





TV Presenters for the Day

On November 15th, 13 pupils from Year 9 were part of a Seren Academy trip to the BBC Studios in Cardiff. They were lucky to experience a behind the scenes tour of the new studios and see first hand how different programmes, news and weather are produced.

We started the day navigating our way through the vast, modern and interactive building. The pupils were impressed with the variety of studios and technology used. We even had a shout out from Wyn Evans on the radio live!

We were able to sit in the BBC Wales news chair and have a turn presenting the weather. The studio boasts the most up to date camera system with robotics which was very fascinating.

Lastly, the pupils headed to the 'Betty' studio named after the first welsh black headteacher. They were able to read the autocue of the news and weather and the recording was emailed back to us in school! We definitely had some budding presenters! They showed skill, confidence and expression using hand gestures to present the information.

We were also able to use the sports microphone to commentate on recorded sports footage. This proved more difficult than it looked and we had lots of fun doing it.

Pupils finished the day with a Q and A session from a variety of BBC employees. We got to hear first hand the range of apprenticeships on offer.

It gave pupils the opportunity to experience a creative industry in Wales and realise the options available to them in the future.



Year 11 Mock Interviews

As part of the programme to prepare pupils for the world of work, Year 11 students were given the opportunity to have a mock interview with employers from a range of different sectors across Swansea.

The interviews were a huge success and the pupils received lots of praise from the employers.

The mock interviews helped the pupils understand what sort of questions they might be asked in a real interview, and has aided their preparation for the Gower College interviews in the new year.



world's largest bean pod



Photo Credit: The Eden Project website

During the summer, one of our Year 11 pupils was strolling along the Three Cliffs Bay with his dad when he stumbled across an unusual pebble. This “pebble” in fact turned out to be the world's largest bean pod!! He then contacted the Eden Project to ask whether they would adopt his findings, and although this is unusual, they said yes! Well done to our budding horticulturist!!



Sporting News



Netball

The first half of the season has been a success for our Netball teams, with impressive results across all year groups.

Attendance at training for both KS3 and KS4 has been outstanding, and all teams are making steady progress. We hope that this term's performances will serve as a foundation for even greater achievements in the second half of the season.

In addition, we would like to extend our congratulations to Ellie Pennino and Sophie Pennino from Year 9, who have been chosen to join the U14 Afan Nedd Tawe Schools Netball Squad.

Sports Ambassadors

Aimee Besley, Molly Pompa, Ava Pennock, Libby Beynon and Isabelle Gwynne have been chosen as Bronze+ Sports Ambassadors for 2023-24. They have joined out current Bronze+ and Silver Ambassadors, including Ellie Pennino, Sophie Pennino, Annabel Williams, Sophia Edwards, Joshua Paynter and Declan Pearson. All students participated in a training day organised by the Sport and Health Team for Swansea at the LC.

After completing their training, they will establish additional sports clubs for students during lunchtime. Keep an eye out for these exciting new clubs!

FOOTBALL

I first of all like to say a massive well done to all Penyrheol pupils that have taken part in representing the school in extra curricular sport this term. The numbers have been amazing, well done and keep going.

Boys Football:

For the first time in years our Year 7 boys team has been able to field 2 very strong teams and has achieved some great results, losing only on penalties in the Welsh Cup.

Year 8 have enjoyed another good start to their season winning both league games and again only losing out in the quarter finals of the Welsh Cup on penalties.

Year 9 and 10 have both had some tough games but have always shown great effort and team spirit.

Year 11 are finally reaching their potential after four tough years at

Christmas they now sit top of the table with 3 wins from 3 games.

Well done all.

A special mention to all those boys who have represented Swansea School Boys this year and a further mention to Year 8 pupil Harrison Moorehouse who has been selected to represent the Welsh Regions Squad.

Finally if there are any pupils out there who have achieved success in any sports could they please let the PE department know. We would love to place your picture on our honours board.

Mr Clapperton

Girls Football:

The girls football teams have had a very successful season so far. The pupil's participation is continuing to grow each week and all pupils are making progress. The U13 and U15 teams have had

regular fixtures against many Swansea and Carmarthenshire schools. The girls also took part in the Swansea School girls 5 a side tournament. The Year 7 team were very successful and just missed out in qualifying for the semi-final. We hope to continue to have a successful season after Christmas.

A huge congratulations to Eva-Rose Swaine who continues to train and play for the U12's Wales Regional squad, what a fantastic achievement. Congratulations also needs to go to Grace Morgan and Maisy Rees who have been selected for Swansea School girls, another fantastic achievement. Well done!

Sporting News

CROSS COUNTRY

A total of 60 students from Years 7-11 participated in the Afan Nedd Tawe Schools Cross Country Development race at Elba in early October. This event marked the highest number of students we have ever had attending a cross country fixture. It is worth mentioning that many students performed exceptionally well, with several of them finishing in the top 15 in their respective races.

Year 7

Alex Griffiths - 3rd
Joshua Edwards - 7th
Annabel Edwards - 9th

Year 9

Sophia Edwards - 14th

Year 11

Jaden Thomas - 12th

12 students from Years 7, 8, and 9 also attended a second cross country event, participating in the Afan Nedd Tawe Schools Cross Country Relays. The four teams performed exceptionally well against other schools in the County. There was a total of 19 teams in each race, and the results are as follows:

Year 7 Boys team - 4th place (Alex Griffiths, Jackson Broome, Joshua Edwards)

Year 7 Girls team - 7th place (Eva Clapham, Annabel Edwards, Libby Beynon)

Year 8/9 Boys team - 4th place (Declan Pearson, Logan Ireland, Jay James)

Year 8/9 Girls team - 5th place (Lacey steel, Sophia Edwards, Aimee Besley).

Outside of School

Aimee Besley, Bridget Caswell and Lewis Bowen were chosen to represent Wales at the National Life Saving Championships in Leeds in November.

Mai Gardner-Rolfe, a Year 7 student, achieved great success

at the Swansea Aquatics Club Championships, winning two silver medals and four bronze medals.

Ceri Williams, a Year 11 student, has been selected to represent the Girls Clubs of Wales in Rugby.

Dylan Palmer-Sweeney and Annabel Williams, Year 9 students, recently emerged victorious in the West Wales Girls Rugby Championships with their club, East Swansea Eagles.

Congratulations to all these individuals on their remarkable achievements in various sports!

RUGBY NEWS

Below is a breakdown of the rugby fixtures and results of this academic year so far.

Year 7

Bishopston - Away - Won - Friendly

Birchgrove - Home - Won - Swansea Cup Quarter Final

Gowerton/Bishopston - TBA - Swansea Cup Semi-Final

Year 8

Bryntawe - Away - Lost - Swansea Cup Round 1

Morrison - Away - Won - Morrison Festival

Bishopston - Away - Lost - Morrison Festival

Dylan Thomas - Away - Won - Morrison Festival

Year 9

Birchgrove - Home - Won - Ospreys League

Olchfa - Away - Lost (Forfeit) - Ospreys League

Llangatwg - Home - Draw - Ospreys Bowl Semi-Final

Morrison - TBA - Swansea Cup Quarter Final

Year 10

Gwyr - Home - Lost - Ospreys League

Olchfa - Home - Win (Forfeit) - Ospreys League

Cefn Hengoed - Home - Win (Forfeit) - Swansea Cup Round 1

Cwm Brombil - Away - Lost - Ospreys Plate Quarter Final

Bryntawe - TBA - Swansea Cup Quarter Final

Year 11

Bryntawe - Away - This is being played Tuesday - Swansea Cup Round 1

The SOUND of MUSIC



For the 50th anniversary of Penyrheol Comprehensive School we made a more traditional choice with this Youth Edition of a Rogers & Hammerstein classic - The Sound of Music. The show was full of all the favourite songs from the film.

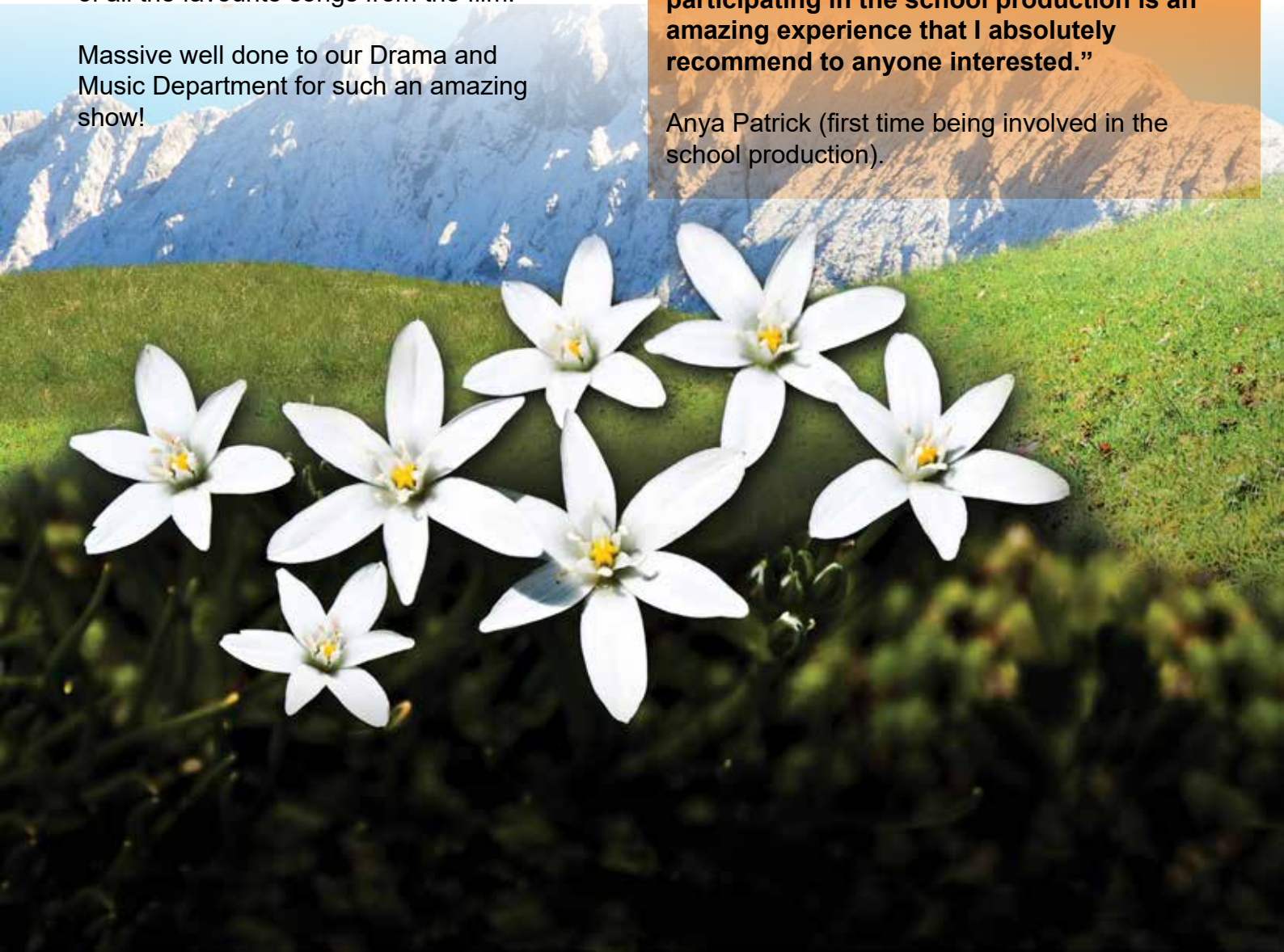
Massive well done to our Drama and Music Department for such an amazing show!

“

“Many people worked incredibly hard to make this year's school production - 'The Sound of Music'- possible, including cast, crew, company and last but not least the teachers who organised the entire performance. There are so many skills to be gained from this experience, for example you'll learn serious commitment. There are many after school rehearsals in the weeks leading up to the show, but everything comes together on the working weekends - a weekend in school with only rehearsal!

Despite what you may think, the jobs in the school production are not limited to acting and singing. There are other equally essential jobs that the production could not succeed without; including stage manager, lighting director and many more! On the whole, participating in the school production is an amazing experience that I absolutely recommend to anyone interested.”

Anya Patrick (first time being involved in the school production).





Children in Need

Doing
Pudsey
Proud!



Year 10 and Year 8 STF pupils went to the local care home Awel Y Mor to create colourful Children in Need decorations to be put up around the care home and spend time with the residents and their pen pals.



We raised
£563!

STUDENT VOICE

Manifesto

On Friday 24th November, form reps from all years took part in the Swansea Student Voice Manifesto. All schools in the area were part of this meeting which took place via a teams video call.

Pupils were invited to discuss “five things that matter to us”, as well as sharing positive things we do as a school.

The discussion was very interesting, and ideas involved community safety, emotional wellbeing, hygiene and recycling to name but a few.

Participating schools were very impressed with the presentation given by our Head Boy and Girl.



Virtual Reality



Year 11, Mr Benney and Mrs Metcalfe-Day have been working over half term at an Open Evening to begin scanning the school for a full Virtual reality tour which we hope to be ready for Easter when we begin visiting Primary Schools ready for Year 6 transition. Mr Benney is hiding all over school and there will be competitions to see who can find him! Look out for more on this as there will be prizes to be won!



Year 11 Musical Showcase



In November Year 11 Music pupils got to present their GCSE talent in our annual Musical Showcase. Pupils were asked to perform either their solo piece, or perform as an ensemble in front of family and friends.



YOU'VE GOT TALENT



Well done to three pupils from Years 7, 8 and 9 for passing their Grade 2 piano exams.

We also celebrate a Year 10 pupil who has won an award with his Brass Band. Congratulations!!



Our Music Department offers a range of extra-curricular activities, including Keyboard Ensemble, Orchestra, Rock Group, Woodwind Group, Chamber Choir, Junior Choir, Senior Choir, String Group and a Music Performance Platform. Please see Mrs Phipps if you are interested in joining.

Drumming Workshop

In October, Year 7 went to the Brangwyn Hall for a drumming workshop and were given the opportunity to experience drums from all over the world.





Christmas Carol Service

Thursday 14th December at St Catherines Church

Over 100 pupils participated in this years Christmas Carol Service. It was a wonderful evening.



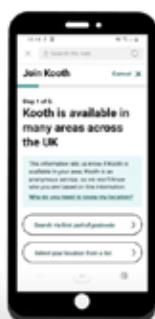


Free, safe, anonymous and online mental health support

Kooth is a free, safe, anonymous and online mental health support website. It is free to sign up - kooth.com - via your mobile, tablet or laptop. You can access advice on anxiety, relationships, tips to help you relax and so much more.



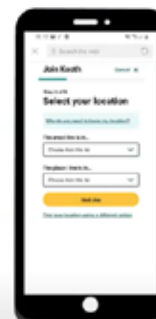
1. Select **Join Kooth**.



2. Sign up by postcode or select your location from our dropdown list.



3. Enter the first part of your postcode.



4. Choose your area from the dropdown.

OR



5. Select your month and year of birth.



6. Select your gender and ethnicity.



7. Create an **anonymous (not your real name)** username and secure password.

Our team are here for you
365 days a year

You can chat with us during the following hours:

Monday - Friday
12pm - 10pm
Saturday and Sunday
6pm - 10pm

Your first chat session

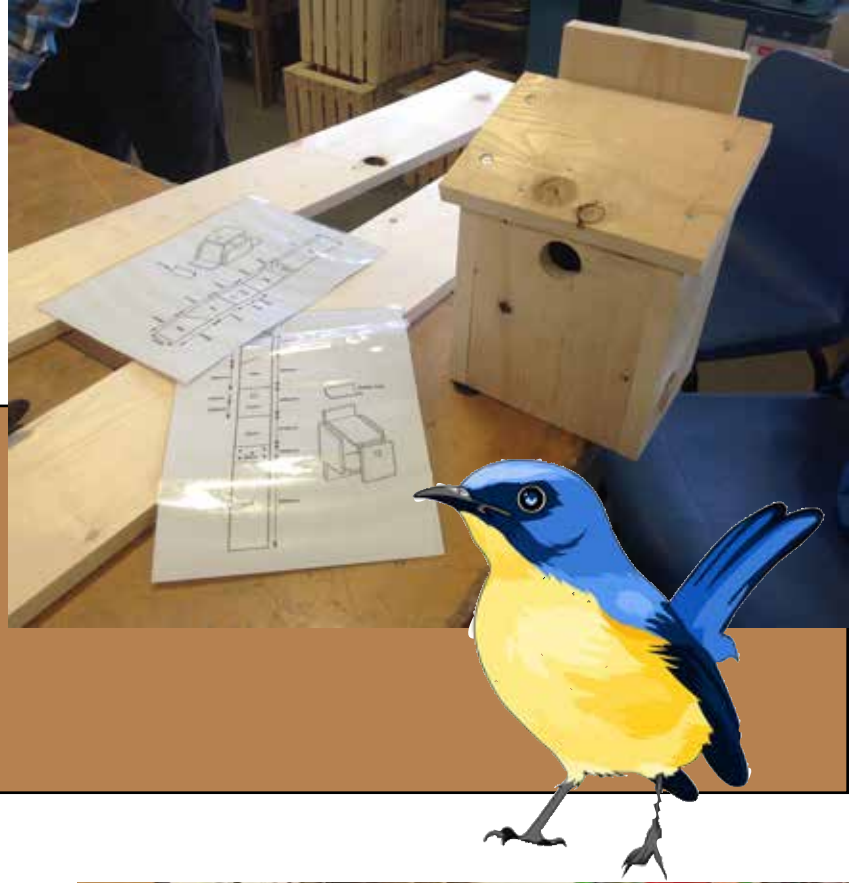
You can usually get help on the same day you need it

When you first come to chat, we will:

- Listen to you
- Explore your current difficulties and what's brought you to Kooth
- Think together about the best way to support you

D & T

This term we welcomed our future cohorts from our partner primary schools for a woodwork lesson with Mr Rees. The Year 6 pupils were tasked with building a bird box which they were able to take home. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed and are looking forward to attending Design and Technology classes next year.



The STF and Energy Club (Mrs Metcalfe-Day and Miss S Evans) are working with Jennifer Jane - Awel Aman Tawe (<https://www.awelamantawe.org.uk/>) and local Artist and Sculptor Ami Marsden to learn about using recycled materials to design Eco Dens.

Designs included windmills, solar panels, rain capture systems and lots more. Pupils used both Science, Technology and Art in unison to create some amazing work! This is part of our Story of Energy Exhibition project with Awel Aman Tawe and Ysgol Crug Glas.



ENERGY COUNCIL







Christmas Decorations

On the 4th December, pupils in the STF were involved in a Christmas Decoration workshop with local glass artists. It was a lovely afternoon and their designs were fab!



WBQ DEN



The Year 10 cohort presented their Christmas products and ideas to the Welsh Bacallaureate (WBQ) board last week and all did a superb job.

pupils were and they produced some beautiful ideas. Congratulations and well done to all pupils in Year 10 for carrying out this task so positively and professionally.

As part of their assessment in WBQ, the pupils created and presented a Christmas Product. It was very pleasing to see how creative and innovative the



Pupils have been very busy in RVE this term.

Mrs Farrell and Ms Steele share some of their achievements.....



Religion, Value and Ethics



Year 7 have been busy doing Celtic weaving.

Year 7



Pupils in Year 7 presenting their research homework on the Druid festival of Yule.





Year 9 pupils looking at criminal punishments and deciding which punishments are effective.



Year 11 GCSE RS pupils visited the Kadampa Meditation Centre in Swansea for a taster meditation session and a discussion with a Buddhist teacher.



What are Penyrheol pupils studying in RVE this Autumn?

Year 7 – Why are there religions? How did it all start?

Year 8 – Why do we have rules? What consequences should there be?

Year 9 – Is everyone equal? How should we treat others?

Year 10 – How did Christianity and Buddhism begin? Is an important birth story important?

Year 11 – What are the marks of our existences? How do Christians and Buddhists worship?

How can you help your child learn this content?

Test their vocabulary and discuss the philosophical table talk questions as a family!

Year 7 Vocabulary	Table talk question
Atheist Theist Agnostic Monotheistic Polytheistic	What would be different about the world if we had no religion?
Year 8 Vocabulary	Table talk question
Rule Punishment Precepts Divine Commandment Authority	What would happen if we had no rules?
Year 9 Vocabulary	Table talk question
Prejudice Discrimination Equality Tolerance Role Model	Why is it important we stand up against prejudice?
Year 10 Vocabulary	Table talk question
Buddha Jesus Reincarnation Literal/ Liberal Middle Way	'Creation stories are not relevant anymore.' Discuss.
Year 11 Vocabulary	Table talk question
Chanting Dana Meditation Bodhisattva Mandalas	'Worship should be quiet and personal.' Discuss.

How did we
get here?

How should
we treat
others?

Philosophy

&

Ethics

Is it right
to test on
animals?

Club

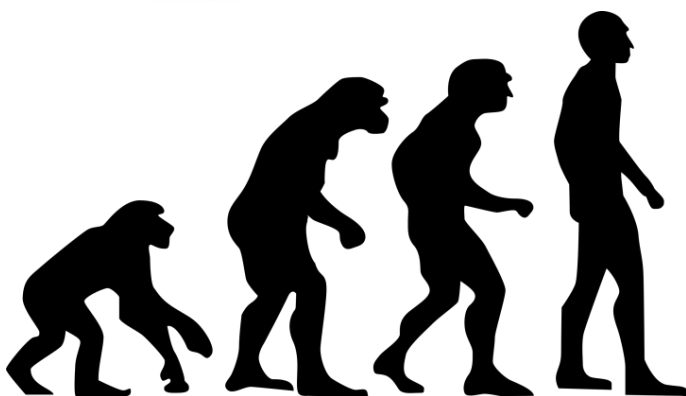
What
happens
next?

COME ALONG!

Every **Monday** at

1:35pm

In **S4**





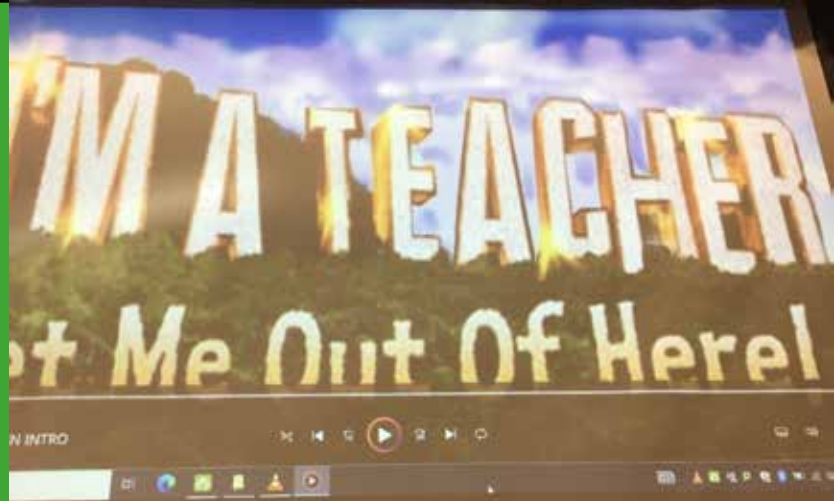
When your World Stops appeal

This year we supported Ty Hafan and their “When your World Stops Appeal”, a charity very important to Mrs Morris’ heart.

In May 2013 Mrs Morris’ twin baby boy, Alfie, was diagnosed with Neonatal Marfan Syndrome. From that moment, Ty Hafam become a huge part of their lives. On the 1st March 2015 Alfie sadly passed away.

Ty Hafan had a target of raising £350,000 in 60 hours. For a week in November, pupils and staff helped raise £1146.97 towards this goal, by selling sweets, chocolates, drinks etc. A “Bushtucker” challenge took place one lunch time, where staff were presented with some questionable looking food. This was particularly popular with pupils!!!





Well done everyone!



Wellbeing at Penyrheol



This year, Mrs Harries and Ms Sanger both attended a 6 week ELSA training course, meaning they have received training and ongoing supervision from educational psychologists. ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) allows schools to support the emotional needs of their pupils from within their own resources. ELSA's help children recognise, understand and manage emotions to increase success. ELSA's plan and deliver individual (and small group) support programmes.



5 Burpees



Goal: ____/30 Achieved

10 Pushups



Goal: ____/30 Achieved

5 Squat Jumps



Goal: ____/30 Achieved



In November pupils were presented with a Bot Camp Challenge and were shown a power point presentation explaining how physical activity can improve mental and physical health. How many of you completed this challenge?

30 DAY BOOT CAMP CHALLENGE

NAME

DATE

Each day you complete an exercise, color in one of the circles. To make it harder, do 2-3 circuits of all 6 exercises.

Daily Tracker

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Goal: ___/30 Achieved: ___/30 Rewards: _____

5 Sidekicks Each Leg

Daily Tracker

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Goal: ___/30 Achieved: ___/30 Rewards: _____

Daily Tracker

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Goal: ___/30 Achieved: ___/30 Rewards: _____

10 Sit-ups

Daily Tracker

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Goal: ___/30 Achieved: ___/30 Rewards: _____

Daily Tracker

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Goal: ___/30 Achieved: ___/30 Rewards: _____

30 Second High Plank

Daily Tracker

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Goal: ___/30 Achieved: ___/30 Rewards: _____

Pupil Talent



.....
**DO YOU LIKE
GOOD MUSIC?**
.....

Music has always been a big part of my life - from the day I was born, music has filled my house. The Beatles, The Rolling Stones and Jason Isbell have always played a big part in my childhood. But it wasn't until last October that I turned my hand to song-writing.

After a drum lesson in school, I began to teach myself the 'Seven Nation Army' riff. Then I remembered two chords my dad (a magnificent guitarist and songwriter) had taught me a few years prior, that after playing once or twice were forever engraved in my head.

I swiftly began to build on my knowledge of song-writing and guitar. After a month of learning and playing, I began to write songs. I would write every day, and write a lot every day. It took me hundreds of bad songs to write one good one.

It was then in April of 2023 I wrote my first great song, and began to write my first album 'Electric Lines'. The album was written quickly and mostly in Goodwick, Wales.

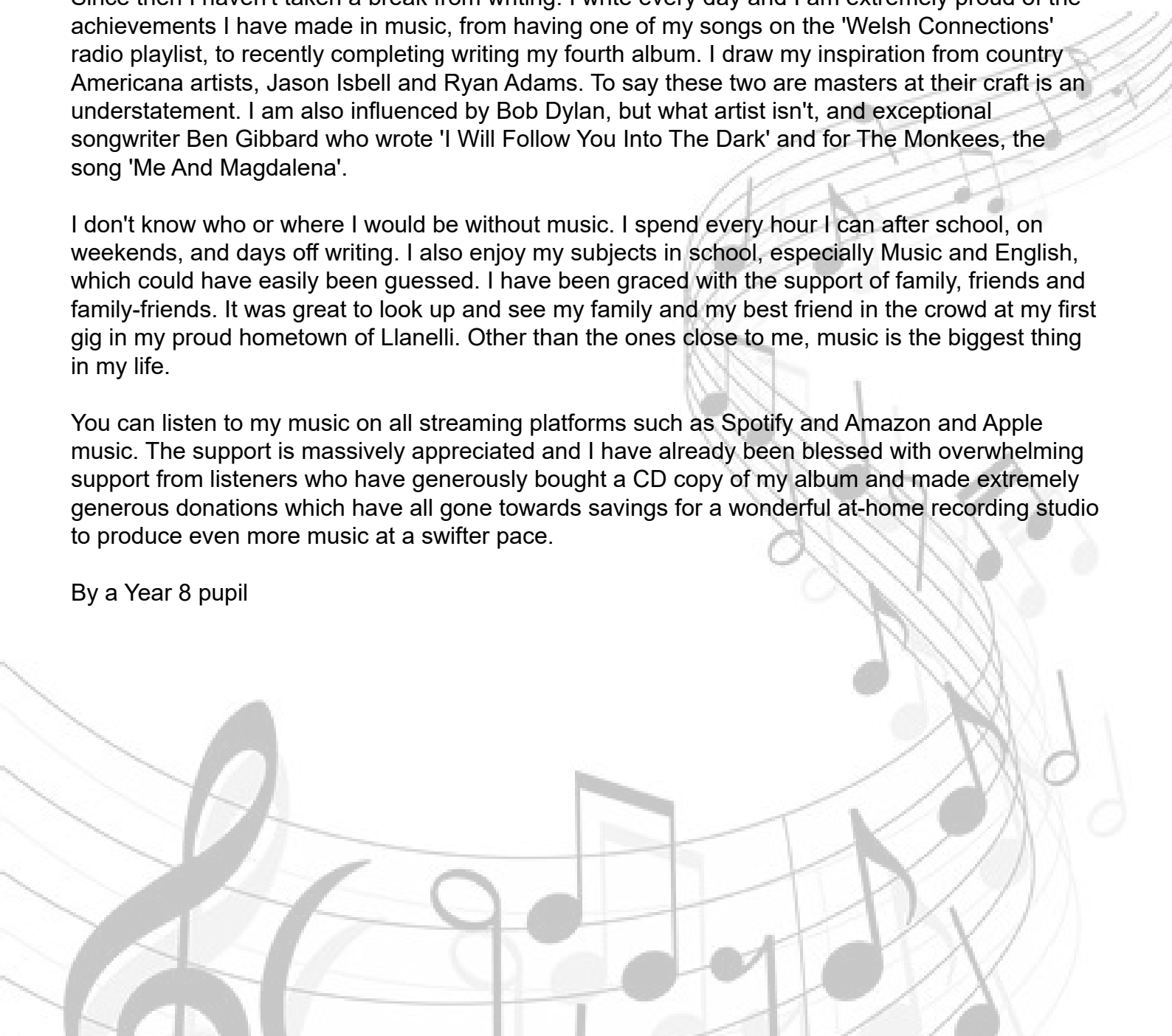
Sat in the window of a cottage overlooking the Goodwick sea wall that pointed in the direction of Cork, Ireland, I recorded the album and by the time it was completely mixed I had finished writing my EP 'Crosstacks' which will be released in the early new year.

Since then I haven't taken a break from writing. I write every day and I am extremely proud of the achievements I have made in music, from having one of my songs on the 'Welsh Connections' radio playlist, to recently completing writing my fourth album. I draw my inspiration from country Americana artists, Jason Isbell and Ryan Adams. To say these two are masters at their craft is an understatement. I am also influenced by Bob Dylan, but what artist isn't, and exceptional songwriter Ben Gibbard who wrote 'I Will Follow You Into The Dark' and for The Monkees, the song 'Me And Magdalena'.

I don't know who or where I would be without music. I spend every hour I can after school, on weekends, and days off writing. I also enjoy my subjects in school, especially Music and English, which could have easily been guessed. I have been graced with the support of family, friends and family-friends. It was great to look up and see my family and my best friend in the crowd at my first gig in my proud hometown of Llanelli. Other than the ones close to me, music is the biggest thing in my life.

You can listen to my music on all streaming platforms such as Spotify and Amazon and Apple music. The support is massively appreciated and I have already been blessed with overwhelming support from listeners who have generously bought a CD copy of my album and made extremely generous donations which have all gone towards savings for a wonderful at-home recording studio to produce even more music at a swifter pace.

By a Year 8 pupil



Remembrance Sunday

We are very proud of our pupils who took part in the cadets Remembrance march.



BRITISH KICKBOXING

Champion

In September one of our very talented pupils became the British Kickboxing Champion. Our Year 10 pupil endured a full contact fight for five rounds, each one and a half minutes long! He has been kickboxing since the age of 3, and currently trains with Welsh Pythons in Bont. His dream is to become World Champion. Good luck, you've got this!



If you have talent to share,
please see Mrs Lafferty in the
library!



PTA Christmas Fayre





PTA News

We began this term by celebrating Penyrheol's 50 year anniversary. Pumdeg Penyrheol organised some fantastic events in September starting with friendly rugby matches at Cae Duke between Loughor and Gorseinon Under 7s and Under 13s.

A reunion concert was then held in The Lodge where former pupils sang their hearts out and a fabulous band played. So many stories from past pupils and staff echoed in the room. The monies raised from the rugby matches, ticket sales and raffles were shared between Morgan's Army and Penyrheol Comprehensive PTA. We were also lucky to

be donated a fantastic banner from Marc O'Kelly.

The PTA Committee and newly formed Penyrheol Pupils Association (PPA) would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the Christmas Fayre and the selling of the Christmas raffle tickets. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of all the businesses who donated a raffle prize/voucher, especially to all the small local businesses who gave once again from Gorseinon High Street.

7S – As a form sold the most raffle tickets. Alisha Facey 7S sold the most raffle tickets overall, followed by Andrew Nolan from 9E.

The Fayre was full of Christmas Festivities, with Christmas carols playing in the background. The various pupils' stalls, games, tombola, teachers' treasure, cakes, sweets, hotdogs, outside stall holders and not forgetting sponge the teacher which was surprisingly very popular with the pupils. Supplied by Max Whitty (Year 7 dad.)

The feedback has been lovely and stall holders commented on how they enjoyed being part of our Fayre, how polite Penyrheol pupils were and that they would all return next year.

Please keep an eye out for our upcoming PTA meetings and events.

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We would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
.....

Mrs T Fussell Chairperson, Miss M Pow Secretary, Mrs N Ireland Treasurer and all Committee Members.



Uniform Swap Shop



Our uniform Swap Shop will be open at Ty Cynnydd from Monday 27th February 2023. Please come along and pick up or order uniform.

Ty Cynnydd is the house as you enter the school opposite the swimming

pool. Mrs Fussell is also available during break and lunch either in G1 or the school canteen to order items.

Please refer to our website to download a copy of the

order form. Return details are included on the form. We have plenty of Penyrheol uniform in stock.



Please re-use, re-cycle and re-educate!

UNIFORM SWAP-SHOP OPENING HOURS

TY CYNNYDD

MONDAY & THURSDAY 8 AM - 8.30 AM

WEDNESDAY 3.05 PM - 3.30 PM

GROUND FLOOR WORKROOM FOR PUPILS

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY 8 AM - 8.30 AM